

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application contains claims 14-21 and 35-37. Claims 1-13 and 22-34, which have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, have been canceled without prejudice, the Applicants reserving the right to pursue patent protection for the subject matter of the canceled claims by way of a divisional application. Claims 14, 16, 18 and 20 have been amended and claims 35-37 have been newly added.

The Patent Office has advised that the last Official Action is a non-final action.

It is noted that the drawings filed on November 14, 2003 and August 27, 2004 have been accepted.

It is further noted that the claim for foreign priority and the fact that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received have been acknowledged by the Patent Office.

It is noted that the restriction requirement has been made final. The non-elected claims 1-13 and 22-34 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 14-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Pasquarella et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed as regards claims 14, 16, 18 and 20 as amended, as well as unamended claims 15, 17, 19 and 21.

Pasquarella shows in Figure 1 inner and outer bumpers 36A and 36B which dampen the bounce or rebound effect resulting from the swinging movement of the **drive arm 24**. Note also column 3, lines 43-48 of Pasquarella.

Claim 14 distinguishes thereover because the members 202g, shown in Figures 18-23, and 211k, 211i, 214k, and 214i, shown in Figures 24-28, are made of a shock absorbing material used to **directly** suppress and **directly** engage the shutter blade when the blade deviates from a trajectory extending between the open and closed positions.

Claim 14, as amended, recites a member formed of shock absorbing material displaced from a trajectory of a shutter blade moving between said open and closed position for suppressing bounding of said blade when the blade is displaced in a direction toward said member. As was pointed out above, Pasquarella fails to teach any member which engages and suppresses bounding of a shutter blade, Pasquarella being limited to having a member which engages a drive arm for the shutter blade.

Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and is submitted to patentably distinguish over Pasquarella for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 14.

Claim 16, as amended, recites a member formed of a shock absorbing material arranged in a position displaced from a movement trajectory of the blade

which is deflected toward said member during movement of the shutter blade or immediately after movement thereof in a direction substantially perpendicular to a moving direction of the shutter blade whereby the blade engages said member. Pasquarella is limited to teaching a member which is directly in the path of the drive arm and fails to teach any member which is displaced from the trajectory of a shutter blade and is engaged by the shutter blade when the blade deviates from the trajectory.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and carries all of its limitations and is submitted to patentably distinguish over Pasquarella for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 16.

Claim 18, as amended, recites a member formed of a shock absorbing material arranged in a vicinity of a movement trajectory of the shutter blade and being engaged by the shutter blade when the shutter blade moves in a direction transverse to the movement trajectory. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Pasquarella, and it is submitted that claim 18 patentably distinguishes thereover.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and carries all of its limitations and is deemed to patentably distinguish over Pasquarella for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 18.

Claim 20 recites a guide unit for guiding a portion of the shutter blade in a direction transverse to a path of movement of said blade at a location where the shutter blade is temporarily stopped or finishes the movement of the shutter blade, and an absorbing member for absorbing kinematic energy of the shutter blade and a position to abut the shutter blade when the shutter blade is guided by said guide unit. Pasquarella fails to teach or even remotely suggest a guide unit such as the guide units 214m and 211m in Figure 28, which respectively guide the ends of blades 213g and 214i toward associated shock absorbing members 211i and 214i. There is no such guide means taught by Pasquarella and clearly there is no guide means which guides shutter blades toward shock absorbing members, Pasquarella being limited to teaching engagement of a shock absorbing member with a drive arm for the shutter blade.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and carries all of its limitations and hence is deemed to patentably distinguish over Pasquarella for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 20.

New claim 35, which depends from claim 14, and new claims 36 and 37, which both depend from claim 18, are deemed to patentably distinguish over Pasquarella for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claims 14 and 18.

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Claim 35 further recites the shock absorbing member directly engaging the shutter blade for suppressing bounding; claim 36 recites the shock absorbing member suppressing bounding of the blade when the blade is moved in a transverse direction by a guide unit; and claim 37 recites that the blade moves in a transverse direction due to an abrupt stoppage in movement of the blade. None of these features are taught or even remotely suggested by Pasquarella, and it is submitted that claims 35-37 patentably distinguish thereover.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 14-21 and 35-37 are allowable over the art and reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-21 and consideration allowance of claims 35-37 are earnestly solicited.

Favorable action is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Shiratori et al.

By 
Louis Weinstein
Registration No. 20,477
(215) 568-6400

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

LW/dr